

master's from Concordia in early education. She began teaching a unique program to the Council Bluffs school district known as Transitional Kindergarten, or T-K as she calls it.

Transitional Kindergarten is an amazing program that accepts 4 years and older who might not be ready for kindergarten. T-K is a wonderful opportunity to give children structured learning and development before entering kindergarten. Brooke says for many parents, they face a difficult choice when they have a child who isn't quite ready for school. As a T-K teacher, she worked with our youngest students to prepare them with the social, emotional, and educational skills.

Teaching T-K is how Brooke met Stacey Kuehn, who nominated Brooke to be Iowan of the week. Stacey was in the Harley-Davidson showroom, ready to buy her retirement motorcycle when her phone rang—she needed to become the caregiver of her two granddaughters.

Brooke met Stacey and her granddaughters when they enrolled in her class. Brooke told Stacey she could call her and that Brooke would do anything to help. She kept that promise. Brooke began helping out with childcare and offering support, and helping these two girls grow. And that's why I wanted to honor Brooke Curtis as Iowan of the Week.

Even though Brooke assures us that all her fellow teachers and school administrators would do the same, I know that Brooke puts everything into being a teacher and helping her kids. "Teachers are givers," she said, "and while I know we can't pour from an empty cup, sometimes I still try." She means there are days, especially over the last year, where she gives everything she has to her students. It was hard on her, and her family.

Brooke and her fellow teachers in the Council Bluffs school district have been teaching A&B schedules during the pandemic, where half their students were online and half in the classroom. "It's not a skill I wanted to learn," she joked.

It has never been harder to be a teacher than right now. That is why I am proud to support legislation that invests in teacher retention, teacher mental health, more funding for our schools, and supporting our K-12 families. Teachers like Brooke should remind us all that investing in our teachers is really an investment in our children.

Madam Speaker, Brooke's dedication to her students and commitment to teaching future educators ensures our kids in Iowa are in excellent hands. It is my honor to name Brooke my Iowan of the Week.

CELEBRATING THE REVEREND EMMITT THEOPHILUS CAVINESS AND EXHIBIT AT HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Reverend Emmitt Theophilus Caviness and his new exhibit at the Harrison County Historical Museum. For sixty years, Reverend Caviness has dedicated his life toward change. Born a year before the Great Depression, Reverend

Caviness has led a life that has made a resounding impact on the state of Ohio.

Reverend Caviness' has made extraordinary accomplishments that can be felt across our nation, even in the face of poverty and racial division. After seeing a racial caricature in Marshall's City Hall, he vowed to dedicate his life to fighting for racial justice. His belief in love's ability to heal racial wounds was exemplified in his support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His actions during the Civil Rights Movement led to his induction to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame, where his imprint is housed at Dr. King's National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia.

To name his accolades would be to speak endlessly, however, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize several of his most noteworthy achievements. The Reverend's belief in public service led to him serving six years on Cleveland City Council. This belief bloomed further by sharing stages with those at the forefront of leadership and policy, including Presidents Carter, W. Bush, and Obama, as well as Civil Rights dignitaries Coretta Scott King and Al Sharpton. He would also receive the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Award for his lifelong membership and recognition from The National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum. His undying hope in "the power of a conversation" is shown through a willingness to engage those of every demographic, regardless of their differences.

The Harrison County Historical Museum will honor Reverend Caviness with the Journey Stories exhibit. The exhibit will showcase memorable photos through his journey, including a photograph of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. visiting his Cleveland church. The exhibit also displays awards for his service towards change and shines a spotlight on his extended family.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise again in honoring Reverend Emmitt Caviness for his work toward creating change not only for his fellow Ohioans but for all Americans.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNI- VERSARY OF GREATER ST. STE- PHEN FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church of New Orleans, Louisiana, as they celebrated 85 years of service on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Greater St. Stephen deserves our collective recognition, not only because of its longevity, but because of the unique contributions it has led in building a wide-reaching community of both faith and service. Since the people of the church are the church, not just its edifices or buildings, we also recognize those members of Greater St. Stephen who are sterling examples of how everyday people, placing their trust in God, can accomplish extraordinary things.

Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church has played a vital role in New Orleans and has dedicated itself to spiritually uplifting the community and its congregation. I myself

am grateful to have a sacred space within its walls.

There are deep roots in my family here at Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church. I am especially proud to say my Mother, Pastor Eartha Flemings Carter, prayerfully served this Congregation, and became an ordained Elder. My sister-in-law, Elder Constance Carter, was one of the first women to be ordained as an Elder at the Church in September 1993.

Founded in 1937 by 69 faithful members, by its 50th anniversary, Greater St. Stephen grew to over 10,000 members; and by 2005, to over 20,000 members, the largest congregation in the State of Louisiana and one of the largest in our country. Operating in three locations around New Orleans and from a separate headquarters, the church served as a model and a training ground for other expanding churches as to how to manage their affairs.

More than that, Greater St. Stephen birthed the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship movement that would revolutionize the African American church landscape, expanding, at its height, to over 1,500 churches and hundreds of thousands of members in virtually every major city in the United States and in places as far flung and diverse as the nations of Africa, the Caribbean and Great Britain. It is famous for its powerful and inspiring gospel choir.

With all of its well-deserved national and international acclaim, however, Greater St. Stephen kept its roots and focused on its local community through its service at home by its vast network of volunteer members. The church established a seniors' residence; a program for women in need of special services; a college scholarship program to assist high achieving-needy students; a learning center for elementary students; and a middle-class housing subdivision community, Greater St. Stephen City, among other unique undertakings.

None of this great church's accomplishments would have occurred except through the stalwart leaders who God envisioned its members to wisely choose. This began with Rev. Arthur Gundy; through Rev. Percy Simpson; and on through the dynamic leadership of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. and his wife and partner in leadership, Dr. Debra B. Morton. Under Bishop Morton was when the ministry was extended to New Orleans East and the Westbank, becoming one church in three locations.

The promise for the future of Greater St. Stephen remains bright under the current leadership of Dr. Tyrone D. Robinson and his wife, Elder Jasmine M. Robinson.

Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church has continuously persevered through the homegoings of Pastors Gundy and Simpson, natural disasters including deadly storms like Hurricane Katrina, a devastating fire of the ministry's original Uptown location, and most recently the challenges of navigating the coronavirus pandemic.

Today we proudly salute Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church following its 85th Anniversary because of what it has meant and still means to our community and our country. I wish it many, many more years of distinguished service.

I thank them for so proudly shining the light of our Lord upon the Greater New Orleans community.